



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Ocala, FL

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The City of Ocala was selected to receive a brownfields assessment grant. Located in central Florida, Ocala (population 49,000) was once a bustling center of commerce. The Downtown and North Magnolia Community Redevelopment Areas (CRAs) were once healthy communities with residential areas, neighborhood businesses, and light industry. Since 1980, many businesses have closed in the CRAs, leaving abandoned and underutilized facilities behind. Nearly 40 percent of West Ocala residents live at or below the poverty level, and the unemployment rate is greater than 10 percent. While 29 percent of city residents are minorities, 50 percent of West Ocala residents are minorities. Many of the abandoned sites are perceived to have mixed contamination plumes that may be impacting area soils and groundwater. The Floridan



Assessment Grant



\$200,000 for hazardous substances

EPA has selected the City of Ocala for a brownfields assessment grant. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to support community outreach activities and conduct Phase I and II environmental site assessments at sites in the Downtown and North Magnolia Community Redevelopment Areas and the West Ocala Historic District.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 4 Brownfields Team
404-562-8866

<http://www.epa.gov/region4/waste/bf/index.htm>

Grant Recipient: City of Ocala, FL
352-629-3822

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

Aquifer, located beneath the city, supplies 100 percent of the potable water used within the city and Marion County. Assessment and eventual cleanup of the city's brownfields properties will remove the stigma associated with the sites and help preserve the city's and county's source of drinking water. Once the environmental issues are addressed, the city anticipates that doors will open to redevelopment that will provide local residents with amenities and jobs, and increase tax revenues for the city.